

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2004. Applicant initially notes with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the application, as evidenced by the Office Action. Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 11 and 30 include patentable subject matter. In light of the Office Action, Applicant has amended Claims 11 and 30 placing them in independent form. Applicant, however, has not amended any of the remaining claims, as Applicant believes that the claims as originally presented are patentable over the cited references. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks.

I. Independent Claims 11 and 30

In paragraph 3, the Office Action indicates that Claims 11 and 30 include patentable subject matter and that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In light of this, Applicant has placed these claims in independent form. Applicant therefore submits that Claims 11 and 30 as amended are patentable and respectfully requests an indication from the Examiner that these claims are allowable.

II. Independent Claims 1, 20, and 39 Are Patentable

In paragraphs 1 and 2, the Office Action rejects Claims 1-10, 12-29, and 31-39 as obvious in light of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,192 to Schaefer with U.S. Patent No. 5,504,922 to Seki. The Office Action alleges that the '192 Schaefer patent discloses a management system for retrieving and display SMBIOS data stored in a database. The Office Action concedes, however, that the '192 Schaefer patent does not disclose a template file containing information for interpreting and displaying the SMBIOS data retrieved from the database. To remedy this deficiency in the teaching of the '192 Schaefer patent, the Office Action cites the '922 Seki patent. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the '922 Seki patent discloses a template file containing information for interpreting the SMBIOS data stored in the SMBIOS database. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

As background, the present application provides a unique solution for displaying data and other information stored in a SMBIOS database. First the data is stored in the database in its raw form. A template file is provided intermediate between a SMBIOS utility program and the SMBIOS database. The template file includes all information required for interpreting and displaying the data structures stored in the SMBIOS database. The information in the template file is in the form of structure definitions including descriptor keys for describing the structure of the data and text to be displayed and control keys used by the utility program to navigate the template file. In operation, when commanded, the utility program retrieves data from the SMBIOS database, and using the Type and offset associated with the data, accesses information corresponding to Type and offset from the template file. Using the information from the template file, the utility program properly interprets and displays to a user the requested information.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken either individually or combination, do not teach or suggest a template file as recited in independent Claims 1, 20, and 39. Specifically, the data translations discussed in the '922 Seki patent do not relate to translation of data stored in the SMBIOS database. The translations discussed in the '922 Seki patent relate to translation of differences in calls made to BIOS by different computer systems not translation of SMBIOS data itself. In other words, the BIOS emulator in the '922 Seki patent works under the premise that different computers may use different function calls for accessing BIOS. For example, the '922 Seki patent provides an example of where one computer has a keyboard having 16 function keys, while the other computer has a keyboard with only 12 function keys. In this regard, the BIOS emulator of the '922 Seki patent provides a translator that allows the user of the keyboard with only 12 functions keys to emulate the function calls made by the keyboard with 16 functions keys. This example of the operation of the BIOS emulator is described at col. 7, line 48 – col. 8, line 9.

The differences between the claimed invention and that of the cited combination may be clearer by giving an example of the operation of the claimed invention and an example of the operation of the system in the '922 Seki patent. Specifically, at page 6, lines 1-12, the specification of the application describes an example where data stored in the SMBIOS database is a string Field in an SMBIOS structure that defines the name of the vender for the BIOS

software. In this embodiment, the template file of the present invention will include a STRING_ID descriptor key associated with this Type and offset in the SMBIOS database. The STRING_ID descriptor key will indicate that the data is a string. It will also include text associated with the descriptor key such as "BIOS Vender's Name" to be displayed with the data string for the BIOS vender's name. In this regard, the SMBIOS database is not required to contain the text "BIOS Vender's Name" or information indicating that the data is a string. All of this information is instead stored in the template file.

The system of the '922 Seki patent, on the other hand, nowhere teaches or suggests use of a template file for interpreting data stored in the SMBIOS database. Instead, it discloses how one can emulate the BIOS commands of a target computer using the hardware of a base computer. For example, it discloses how a user using a base computer that has a keyboard with 12 function keys can emulate BIOS commands issued by a target computer that has a keyboard with 16 function keys. In short, the claimed invention relates to translating data stored in the SMBIOS database and the '922 Seki patent relates to translation of BIOS commands issued by different computers. The data stored in the SMBIOS database has nothing to do with the commands used by computers to call BIOS functions.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 20, and 39, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over the cited references, taken either individually or in combination.

III. Dependent Claims 2-10, 12-19, 21-29, and 31-38

In paragraphs 2 and 3, the Office Action also alleges that all of the dependent claims are disclosed in Schaefer at fig. 6, fig. 7, col. 6, lines 17-67 to col. 7, lines 1-3. Applicant first assumes that the Office Action is referring to the '992 Seki patent and not the '192 Schaefer patent, as the '192 Schaefer patent does not include a fig. 6 or fig. 7. Applicant next disagrees with these rejections. The sections of the '992 Seki patent outlined by the Office Action do not in any way relate to descriptor keys for defining data structures stored in the SMBIOS database. As discussed in Section II above, the disclosure of the '992 Seki patent relates to translation of BIOS calls by different computers, not translation of data stored in the SMBIOS database. The


00H, 10H, 08H, etc. codes mentioned in the '992 Seki patent are BIOS function call codes, not data structures stored in the SMBIOS database. As such, for these additional reasons, dependent Claims 2-10, 12-19, 21-29, and 31-38 are patentable over the cited references, taken either individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

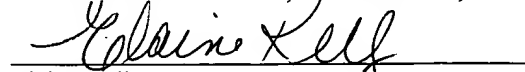
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